

Section 121, act July 5, 1932, ch. 421, §2, 47 Stat. 576, related to jurisdiction of violations and penalties for ocean-going vessels not properly equipped.

CHAPTER 5—WIRE OR RADIO COMMUNICATION

SUBCHAPTER I—GENERAL PROVISIONS

- Sec.
- 151. Purposes of chapter; Federal Communications Commission created.
- 152. Application of chapter.
- 153. Definitions.
- 154. Federal Communications Commission.
- 155. Commission.
- 156. Authorization of appropriations.
- 157. New technologies and services.
- 158. Application fees.
- 159. Regulatory fees.
- 160. Competition in provision of telecommunications service.
- 161. Regulatory reform.
- 162. Additional research authorities of the FCC.

SUBCHAPTER II—COMMON CARRIERS

PART I—COMMON CARRIER REGULATION

- 201. Service and charges.
- 202. Discriminations and preferences.
- 203. Schedules of charges.
- 204. Hearings on new charges; suspension pending hearing; refunds; duration of hearing; appeal of order concluding hearing.
- 205. Commission authorized to prescribe just and reasonable charges; penalties for violations.
- 206. Carriers' liability for damages.
- 207. Recovery of damages.
- 208. Complaints to Commission; investigations; duration of investigation; appeal of order concluding investigation.
- 209. Orders for payment of money.
- 210. Franks and passes; free service to governmental agencies in connection with national defense.
- 211. Contracts of carriers; filing with Commission.
- 212. Interlocking directorates; officials dealing in securities.
- 213. Valuation of property of carrier.
- 214. Extension of lines or discontinuance of service; certificate of public convenience and necessity.
- 215. Examination of transactions relating to furnishing of services, equipment, etc.; reports to Congress.
- 216. Receivers and trustees; application of chapter.
- 217. Agents' acts and omissions; liability of carrier.
- 218. Management of business; inquiries by Commission.
- 219. Reports by carriers; contents and requirements generally.
- 220. Accounts, records, and memoranda.
- 221. Consolidations and mergers of telephone companies.
- 222. Privacy of customer information.
- 223. Obscene or harassing telephone calls in the District of Columbia or in interstate or foreign communications.
- 224. Pole attachments.
- 225. Telecommunications services for hearing-impaired and speech-impaired individuals.
- 226. Telephone operator services.
- 227. Restrictions on use of telephone equipment.
- 228. Regulation of carrier offering of pay-per-call services.
- 229. Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act compliance.
- 230. Protection for private blocking and screening of offensive material.

- Sec.
- 231. Restriction of access by minors to materials commercially distributed by means of World Wide Web that are harmful to minors.

PART II—DEVELOPMENT OF COMPETITIVE MARKETS

- 251. Interconnection.
- 252. Procedures for negotiation, arbitration, and approval of agreements.
- 253. Removal of barriers to entry.
- 254. Universal service.
- 255. Access by persons with disabilities.
- 256. Coordination for interconnectivity.
- 257. Market entry barriers proceeding.
- 258. Illegal changes in subscriber carrier selections.
- 259. Infrastructure sharing.
- 260. Provision of telemessaging service.
- 261. Effect on other requirements.

PART III—SPECIAL PROVISIONS CONCERNING BELL OPERATING COMPANIES

- 271. Bell operating company entry into interLATA services.
- 272. Separate affiliate; safeguards.
- 273. Manufacturing by Bell operating companies.
- 274. Electronic publishing by Bell operating companies.
- 275. Alarm monitoring services.
- 276. Provision of payphone service.

SUBCHAPTER III—SPECIAL PROVISIONS RELATING TO RADIO

PART I—GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 301. License for radio communication or transmission of energy.
- 302. Repealed.
- 302a. Devices which interfere with radio reception.
- 303. Powers and duties of Commission.
- 303a. Standards for children's television programming.
- 303b. Consideration of children's television service in broadcast license renewal.
- 303c. Television program improvement.
- 304. Waiver by license of claims to particular frequency or of electromagnetic spectrum.
- 305. Government owned stations.
- 306. Foreign ships; application of section 301.
- 307. Licenses.
- 308. Requirements for license.
- 309. Application for license.
- 310. License ownership restrictions.
- 311. Requirements as to certain applications in broadcasting service.
- 312. Administrative sanctions.
- 312a. Revocation of operator's license used in unlawful distribution of controlled substances.
- 313. Application of antitrust laws to manufacture, sale, and trade in radio apparatus.
- 314. Competition in commerce; preservation.
- 315. Candidates for public office.
- 316. Modification by Commission of station licenses or construction permits; burden of proof.
- 317. Announcement of payment for broadcast.
- 318. Transmitting apparatus; operator's license.
- 319. Construction permits.
- 320. Stations liable to interfere with distress signals; designation and regulation.
- 321. Distress signals and communications; equipment on vessels; regulations.
- 322. Exchanging radio communications between land and ship stations and from ship to ship.
- 323. Interference between Government and commercial stations.
- 324. Use of minimum power.

Sec. 325.	False, fraudulent, or unauthorized transmissions.	Sec. 392a.	Repealed.
326.	Censorship.	393.	Criteria for approval and expenditures by Secretary.
327.	Naval stations; use for commercial messages; rates.	393a.	Long-range planning for facilities.
328.	Repealed.	SUBPART B—NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR CHILDREN'S EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION	
329.	Administration of radio laws in Territories and possessions.	394.	Establishment of National Endowment.
330.	Prohibition against shipment of certain television receivers.	SUBPART C—TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEMONSTRATIONS	
331.	Very high frequency stations and AM radio stations.	395.	Assistance for demonstration projects.
332.	Mobile services.	SUBPART D—CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING	
333.	Willful or malicious interference.	396.	Corporation for Public Broadcasting.
334.	Limitation on revision of equal employment opportunity regulations.	SUBPART E—GENERAL PROVISIONS	
335.	Direct broadcast satellite service obligations.	397.	Definitions.
336.	Broadcast spectrum flexibility.	398.	Federal interference or control.
337.	Allocation and assignment of new public safety services licenses and commercial licenses.	399.	Support of political candidates prohibited.
338.	Carriage of local television signals by satellite carriers.	399a.	Use of business or institutional logograms.
339.	Carriage of distant television stations by satellite carriers.	399b.	Offering of certain services, facilities, or products by public broadcast station.
340.	Significantly viewed signals permitted to be carried.	SUBCHAPTER IV—PROCEDURAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS	
341.	Carriage of television signals to certain subscribers.	401.	Enforcement provisions.
342.	Process for issuing qualified carrier certification.	402.	Judicial review of Commission's orders and decisions.
PART II—RADIO EQUIPMENT AND RADIO OPERATORS ON BOARD SHIP		403.	Inquiry by Commission on its own motion.
351.	Ship radio stations and operations.	404.	Reports of investigations.
352.	Exemptions.	405.	Petition for reconsideration; procedure; disposition; time of filing; additional evidence; time for disposition of petition for reconsideration of order concluding hearing or investigation; appeal of order.
353.	Radio equipment and operators.	406.	Compelling furnishing of facilities; mandamus; jurisdiction.
353a.	Operators and watches on radiotelephone equipped ships.	407.	Order for payment of money; petition for enforcement; procedure; order of Commission as prima facie evidence; costs; attorneys' fees.
354.	Technical requirements of equipment on radiotelegraph equipped ships.	408.	Order not for payment of money; when effective.
354a.	Technical requirements of equipment on radiotelephone equipped ships.	409.	Hearings.
355.	Survival craft.	410.	Joint boards and commissions.
356.	Approval of installations by Commission.	411.	Joinder of parties.
357.	Safety information.	412.	Documents filed with Commission as public records; prima facie evidence; confidential records.
358.	Master's control over operations.	413.	Designation of agent for service; method of service.
359.	Certificates of compliance; issuance, modification, and cancellation.	414.	Exclusiveness of chapter.
360.	Station licenses; inspection of equipment by Commission.	415.	Limitations of actions.
361.	Control by Commission; review of decisions.	416.	Orders of Commission.
362.	Forfeitures; recovery.	SUBCHAPTER V—PENAL PROVISIONS; FORFEITURES	
363.	Automated ship distress and safety systems.	501.	General penalty.
PART III—RADIO INSTALLATIONS ON VESSELS CARRYING PASSENGERS FOR HIRE		502.	Violation of rules, regulations, etc.
381.	Vessels transporting more than six passengers for hire required to be equipped with radiotelephone.	503.	Forfeitures.
382.	Vessels excepted from radiotelephone requirement.	504.	Forfeitures.
383.	Exemptions by Commission.	505.	Venue of trials.
384.	Authority of Commission; operations, installations, and additional equipment.	506.	Repealed.
385.	Inspections.	507.	Violation of Great Lakes Agreement.
386.	Forfeitures.	508.	Disclosure of payments to individuals connected with broadcasts.
PART IV—ASSISTANCE FOR PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION OF PUBLIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES; TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEMONSTRATIONS; CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING; GENERAL PROVISIONS		509.	Prohibited practices in contests of knowledge, skill, or chance.
SUBPART A—ASSISTANCE FOR PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION OF PUBLIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES		510.	Forfeiture of communications devices.
390.	Declaration of purpose.	SUBCHAPTER V—A—CABLE COMMUNICATIONS	
391.	Authorization of appropriations.	PART I—GENERAL PROVISIONS	
392.	Grants for construction.	521.	Purposes.
		522.	Definitions.
		PART II—USE OF CABLE CHANNELS AND CABLE OWNERSHIP RESTRICTIONS	
		531.	Cable channels for public, educational, or governmental use.

- Sec.
532. Cable channels for commercial use.
533. Ownership restrictions.
534. Carriage of local commercial television signals.
535. Carriage of noncommercial educational television.
536. Regulation of carriage agreements.
537. Sales of cable systems.

PART III—FRANCHISING AND REGULATION

541. General franchise requirements.
542. Franchise fees.
543. Regulation of rates.
544. Regulation of services, facilities, and equipment.
544a. Consumer electronics equipment compatibility.
545. Modification of franchise obligations.
546. Renewal.
547. Conditions of sale.
548. Development of competition and diversity in video programming distribution.
549. Competitive availability of navigation devices.

PART IV—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

551. Protection of subscriber privacy.
552. Consumer protection and customer service.
553. Unauthorized reception of cable service.
554. Equal employment opportunity.
555. Judicial proceedings.
555a. Limitation of franchising authority liability.
556. Coordination of Federal, State, and local authority.
557. Existing franchises.
558. Criminal and civil liability.
559. Obscene programming.
560. Scrambling of cable channels for nonsubscribers.
561. Scrambling of sexually explicit adult video service programming.

PART V—VIDEO PROGRAMMING SERVICES PROVIDED BY TELEPHONE COMPANIES

571. Regulatory treatment of video programming services.
572. Prohibition on buy outs.
573. Establishment of open video systems.

SUBCHAPTER VI—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

601. Interstate Commerce Commission and Postmaster General; duties, powers, and functions transferred to Commission.
602, 603. Repealed.
604. Effect of transfer.
605. Unauthorized publication or use of communications.
606. War powers of President.
607. Effective date of chapter.
608. Separability.
609. Short title.
610. Telephone service for disabled.
611. Closed-captioning of public service announcements.
612. Syndicated exclusivity.
613. Video programming accessibility.
614. Telecommunications Development Fund.
615. Support for universal emergency telephone number.
615a. Service provider parity of protection.
615a-1. Duty to provide 9-1-1 and enhanced 9-1-1 service.
615b. Definitions.
615c. Emergency Access Advisory Committee.
616. Internet protocol-based relay services.
617. Access to advanced communications services and equipment.
618. Enforcement and recordkeeping obligations.

- Sec.
619. Internet browsers built into telephones used with public mobile services.
620. Relay services for deaf-blind individuals.
621. Rulemaking on loud commercials required.

SUBCHAPTER I—GENERAL PROVISIONS

§ 151. Purposes of chapter; Federal Communications Commission created

For the purpose of regulating interstate and foreign commerce in communication by wire and radio so as to make available, so far as possible, to all the people of the United States, without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, or sex, a rapid, efficient, Nation-wide, and world-wide wire and radio communication service with adequate facilities at reasonable charges, for the purpose of the national defense, for the purpose of promoting safety of life and property through the use of wire and radio communications, and for the purpose of securing a more effective execution of this policy by centralizing authority heretofore granted by law to several agencies and by granting additional authority with respect to interstate and foreign commerce in wire and radio communication, there is created a commission to be known as the “Federal Communications Commission”, which shall be constituted as hereinafter provided, and which shall execute and enforce the provisions of this chapter.

(June 19, 1934, ch. 652, title I, § 1, 48 Stat. 1064; May 20, 1937, ch. 229, § 1, 50 Stat. 189; Pub. L. 104-104, title I, § 104, Feb. 8, 1996, 110 Stat. 86.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in text, was in the original “this Act”, meaning act June 19, 1934, ch. 652, 48 Stat. 1064, as amended, known as the Communications Act of 1934, which is classified principally to this chapter. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see section 609 of this title and Tables.

AMENDMENTS

1996—Pub. L. 104-104 inserted “, without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, or sex,” after “to all the people of the United States”.

1937—Act May 20, 1937, inserted “for the purpose of promoting safety of life and property through the use of wire and radio communication”.

MORATORIUM ON INTERNET TAXES

Pub. L. 105-277, div. C, title XI, Oct. 21, 1998, 112 Stat. 2681-719, as amended by Pub. L. 107-75, § 2, Nov. 28, 2001, 115 Stat. 703; Pub. L. 108-435, §§ 2-6A, Dec. 3, 2004, 118 Stat. 2615-2618; Pub. L. 110-108, §§ 2-6, Oct. 31, 2007, 121 Stat. 1024-1026, provided that:

“SEC. 1100. SHORT TITLE.

“This title may be cited as the ‘Internet Tax Freedom Act’.

“SEC. 1101. MORATORIUM.

“(a) MORATORIUM.—No State or political subdivision thereof may impose any of the following taxes during the period beginning November 1, 2003, and ending November 1, 2014:

“(1) Taxes on Internet access.

“(2) Multiple or discriminatory taxes on electronic commerce.

“(b) PRESERVATION OF STATE AND LOCAL TAXING AUTHORITY.—Except as provided in this section, nothing in this title shall be construed to modify, impair, or supersede, or authorize the modification, impairment, or